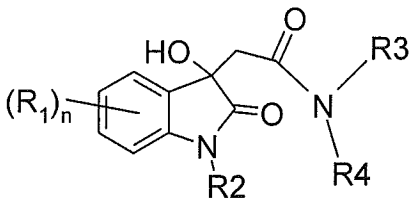
IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the prior claims listing by the following listing:

1-17: (cancelled).

18. (currently amended): A method for the manufacture ~~of pharmaceuticals or~~ of a compound of ~~the~~ formula II defined below,

comprising a method for the manufacture of amides of the formula II,

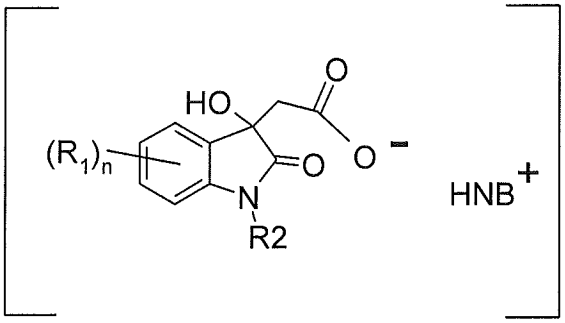


(II)

wherein n is a number from 0 to 4,
each R_1 is, independently of the other substituents R_1, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, unsubstituted or substituted heterocyclyl, alkylsulfonyl, sulfonyl alkyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted or unsubstituted aminosulfonyl alkyl, hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, halogen, cyano, carboxamido, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carboxamido, carboxhydrazido, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or subsituted alkoxy, formyl or other alkanoyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkynyl, unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl, alkanoyloxy, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted or unsubstituted amino, unsubstituted or substituted hydrazino, or is a residue of a boronic acid or an ester thereof;
R2 is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, carbamoyl or N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, silyl substituted by three moieties independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or acyl, and
R3 and R4 are, independently of each other, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or together form an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene bridge (thus forming a ring with the binding nitrogen) or an

alkylene bridge to which a phenyl or a C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl ring is condensed at two vicinal carbon atoms of the alkylene bridge

where a starting material of the formula III,

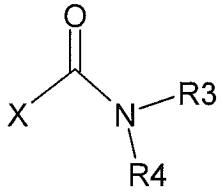


(III)

wherein n, R_1 and R2 have the meanings given under formula II and NB is a tertiary nitrogen base where the nitrogen is not part of a ring,

is reacted

(b) with an active amido carbonic acid derivative of the formula V,

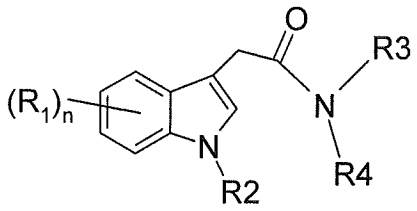


(V)

wherein X is halogen and R3 and R4 are as defined under formula II, to give the corresponding compound of the formula II_T

~~and further comprising reducing the indolone moiety in compound of the formula II in the presence of a complex hydride~~.

19. (currently amended): The method according to claim 18 <u>further comprising reducing the indolone moiety in the compound of said formula II in the presence of a complex hydride</u> wherein as reductant a borane di-lower alkyl sulfide is used, resulting in the formation of the corresponding indole of the formula XII

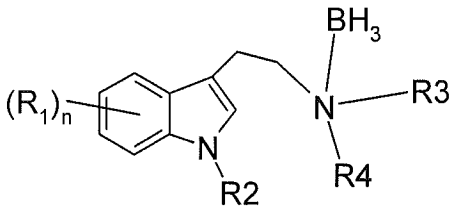


(XII)

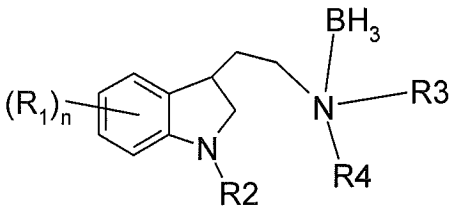
wherein the symbols and moieties are as defined in claim 18.

20. (cancelled).

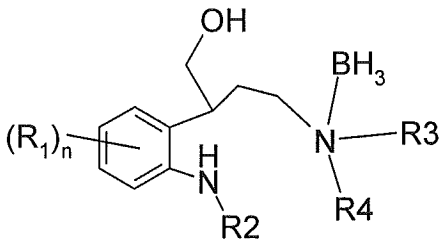
21. (currently amended): The method according to claim <u>19</u>~~18~~ where reaction of the compound of the formula II takes place in the presence of an alkali metal borohydride and a boron trifluoride etherate, yielding a mixture containing compounds of the formulae XIIIa, XIIIb and XIIIc,



(XIIIa)



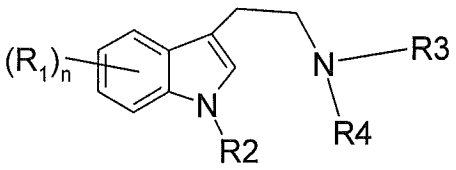
(XIIIb), and



(XIIIc)

wherein n, R_1, R2, R3 and R4 are as defined in claim 18 for the starting compounds of the formula II.

22. (currently amended): The method~~A process~~ according to claim 21, further comprising the conversion of the mixture of compounds XIIIa, XIIIb and XIIIc into a compound of the formula XIV

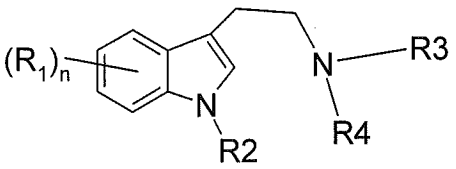


(XIV)

wherein n, R_1, R2, R3 and R4 are as defined under formula XIIIa, XIIIb and XIIIc in claim 21, by reaction with diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane and subsequent dehydrogenation or oxidation with an oxidant.

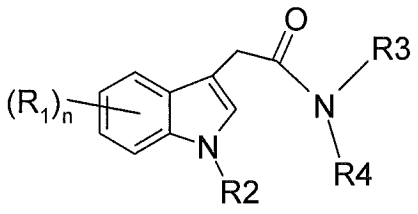
23. (cancelled).

24. (currently amended): The[[~~A~~]] method according to claim 22, wherein the compound of the formula XIV



(XIV)

or of the formula XII,



(XII)

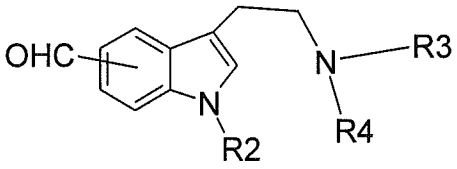
where n, R_1, R_3 and R_4 are as defined in claim 22 and R2 is hydrogen, respectively, further is converted by introduction of a moiety R2 which is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, carbamoyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, silyl substituted by three moieties independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or acyl; wherein unsubstituted or substituted alkyl is introduced by reaction with a strong base with a corresponding unsubstituted or substituted alkyl derivative of the formula XV,

Alk-L (XV)

wherein Alk is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, carbamoyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, and L is a leaving group, to give the corresponding compound of the formula XII or XIV wherein R2 is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; or acyl is introduced by reaction with the corresponding acylhalogenides or mixed or symmetrical acid anhydrides with one or two of the corresponding acyl moieties; or the silyl derivatives are introduced using the corresponding silylhalogenides, respectively.

25-30. (cancelled).

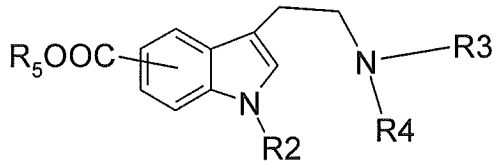
31. (currently amended): The process according to claim 22~~A process~~ for the reaction of a compound of the formula XIV ~~as defined in claim 22~~ where n is 1 and R1 is halogen, comprising converting it into the corresponding compound of the formula XX^6,



(XX^6),

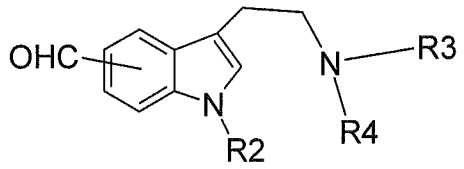
wherein R2, R3 and R4 are as defined for the compound of the formula XIV, by reaction with first a lithium alkyl compound to form the lithio derivative and then with DMF or triethyl formate, to obtain the compound of the formula XX^6 after hydrolysis.

32. (previously presented): A compound of the formula XIV^5



(XIV^5),

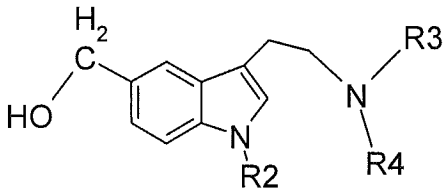
or of the formula XX^6



(XX^6),

wherein R2, R3, and R4 are as defined in claim 18 for formula II, provided that one of R3 or R4 is not methyl and R3 and R4 together are not phthalyl, and R_5 is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, or a salt thereof.

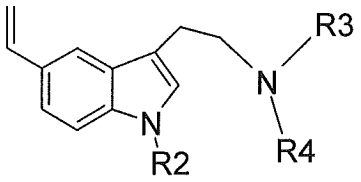
33. (currently amended): The method according to claim 31~~A process~~ for the manufacture of a compound of the formula XXI**



(XXI**)

wherein R2, R3 and R4 have the meanings indicated for compounds of the formula XX^6 ~~in claim 31~~, by reduction of the aldehyde carbonyl in the compound of formula XX^6 in the presence of a selective transition metal catalyst.

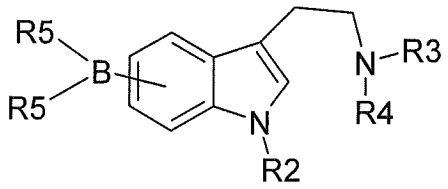
34. (currently amended): The method according to claim 31~~A process~~ for the manufacture of a compound of the formula XXI*,



(XXI*)

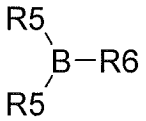
wherein R2, R3 and R4 have the meanings indicated for compounds of the formula XX^6 ~~in claim 31~~, by conversion of a compound of the formula XX^6 as defined in claim 31 into the corresponding compound of the formula XXI* by reaction with a Wittig or Wittig Horner reagent in the presence of a suitable base.

35. (currently amended): The method according to claim 22~~A process~~ for the reaction of a compound of the formula XIV ~~as defined in claim 22~~ where n is 1 and R_1 is halogen, comprising converting it into the corresponding compound of the formulae XX^7,



(XX^7)

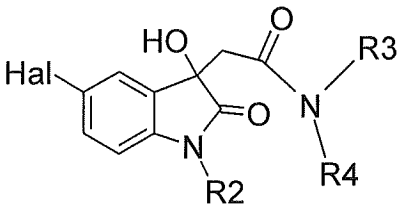
wherein R2, R3 and R4 are as defined for the compound of the formula XIV, and each of R5 independently is hydroxy or an alkoxy residue of a lower alcohol, or the 2 residues R5 together are C_2-C_8alkylene-dioxy,
by reaction with first a lithium alkyl compound to form the lithio derivative, and then with an ester of boric acid B,



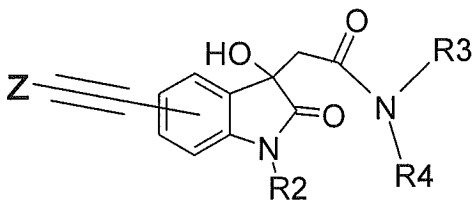
(B)

wherein each of R5 and R6 independently is an alkoxy residue of a lower alcohol, or the 2 residues R5 together are C_2-C_8alkylene-dioxy,
and subsequent hydrolysis, to obtain the compound of the formula XX^7.

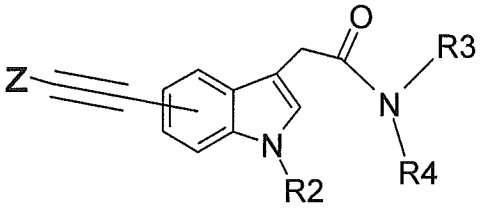
36. (previously presented): A compound of the formulae XVI, II^2, XII^2, XIV^2, II^3, XII^3, XIV^3, II^4, XII^4, XIV^4, II^5, XII^5, XX^7, XXI* or XXI**



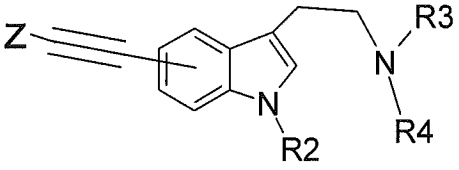
(XVI),



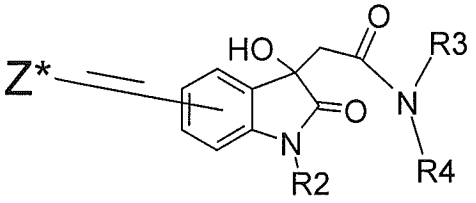
(II^2),



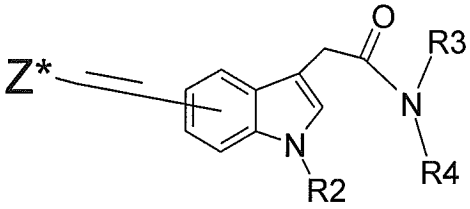
(XII^2),



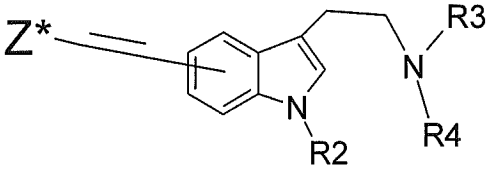
(XIV^2),



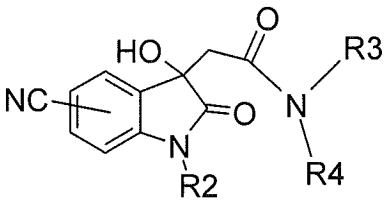
(II^3),



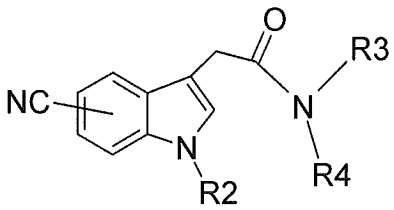
(XII^3),



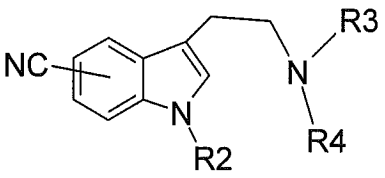
(XIV^3),



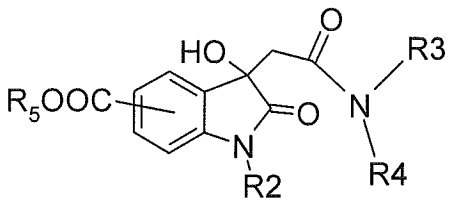
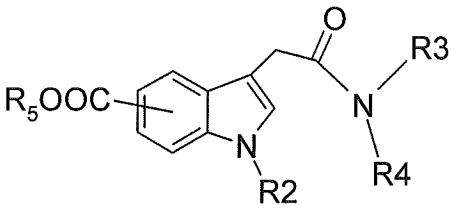
(II^4),



(XII^4),



(XIV^4),


(II[5]),

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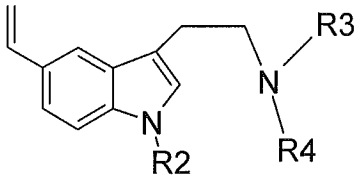
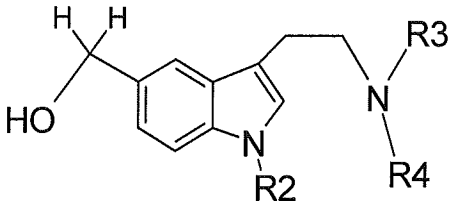
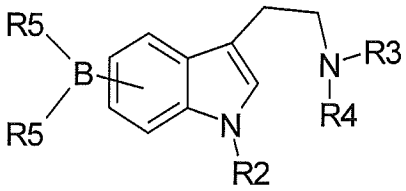

(XXI*),

(XXI**) or

(XX[7]),

wherein

n is a number from 0 to 4,

each R_1 is, independently of the other substituents R_1, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, unsubstituted or substituted heterocyclyl, alkylsulfonyl, sulfonyl alkyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted or unsubstituted aminosulfonyl alkyl, hydroxy, mercapto, halogen, cyano, carboxamido, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carboxamido, carboxhydrazido, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or subsituted alkoxy, formyl or other alkanoyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkynyl, unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl, alkanoyloxy, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted or unsubstituted amino, unsubstituted or substituted hydrazino, or is a residue of a boronic acid or an ester thereof;

R2 is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, carbamoyl or N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, silyl substituted by three moieties independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or acyl, and

R3 and R4 are, independently of each other, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or together form an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene bridge (thus forming a ring with the binding nitrogen) or an

alkylene bridge to which a phenyl or a C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl ring is condensed at two vicinal carbon atoms of the alkylene bridge,

Hal is nitro or halogen,

Z is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl,

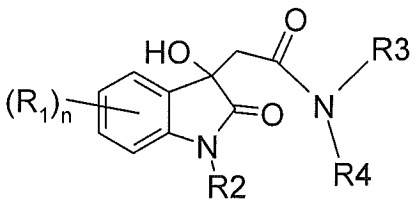
Z* is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkylsulfonyl, $(Y)_2N$-sulfonyl wherein each Y, independently of the other, is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; or Z* is alkoxycarbonyl, cyano or unsubstituted or substituted heterocyclyl, and

R_5 is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, or unsubstituted or substituted aryl,

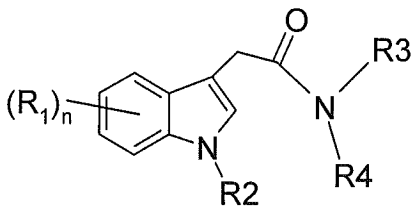
or a salt thereof.

37-40. (cancelled).

41. (previously presented) A compound of the formulae II^1 or XII^1,



(II^1),



(XII^1),

wherein

n is 1 or 2,

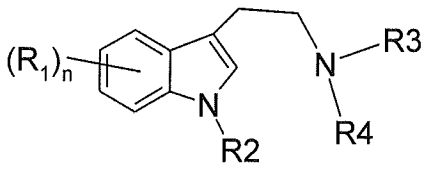
each R_1 is, independently of the other substituents R_1, unsubstituted or substituted aryl; or R_1 is substituted heterocyclyl selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted or oxo- and/or lower alkyl-substituted imidazolidinyl, thienyl, oxazolidonyl and pyrrolidinyl;

R2 is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, carbamoyl or N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, silyl substituted by three moieties independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or acyl, and

R3 and R4 are, independently of each other, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or together form an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene bridge (thus forming a ring with the binding nitrogen) or an

alkylene bridge to which a phenyl or a C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl ring is condensed at two vicinal carbon atoms of the alkylene bridge, or a salt thereof.

42. (previously presented) A compound of the formulae XIV^1



(XIV^1),

wherein

n is 1 or 2,

each R_1 is, independently of the other substituents R_1, unsubstituted or substituted aryl; or R_1 is substituted heterocyclyl selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted or oxo- and/or lower alkyl-substituted imidazolidinyl, thienyl, oxazolidonyl and pyrrolidinyl;

R2 is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkoxycarbonyl, unsubstituted or substituted arylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted alkylsulfonyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, carbamoyl or N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, silyl substituted by three moieties independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or acyl, and

R3 and R4 are, independently of each other, unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or together form an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene bridge (thus forming a ring with the binding nitrogen) or an alkylene bridge to which a phenyl or a C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl ring is condensed at two vicinal carbon atoms of the alkylene bridge, or a salt thereof.

43. (cancelled).